



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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IWRB Completes Draft Aquifer Management Plan

The Idaho Water Resource Board completed a Draft Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Framework Management Plan on Jan. 23. Freshly armed with public and stakeholder input from four meetings held in mid-January, CDR Associates, facilitation consultants, and the Board worked through a preliminary draft Framework document.

CDR will take the feedback information developed at the January 22 and 23 Board meeting and produce a draft Framework for final review. Once Board members approve the changes, the Framework plan will be available and ready for presentation to the Governor and Idaho Legislature in mid-February.

The Draft Framework includes a Goal and numerous management objectives for the Eastern Snake Aquifer, as well as a process schedule and funding request to complete a Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan.

A key component to the process will be the creation of an Advisory Committee that represents affected water users, business, industry, municipalities and government agencies. The schedule calls for completing the final Plan in 16 months given legislative approval and funding.

MORE

The Board also took action to allocate up \$150,000 to offset any additional costs that might be incurred by irrigation districts and canal companies related to 2007 aquifer recharge activities. The Board will issue a Request for Proposals to surface water irrigation organizations on the Eastern Snake River Plain that are capable of diverting water from the Snake and Wood rivers. The Board holds a water permit to divert for recharge purposes from the Snake and Wood rivers.

The Board approved a \$400,000 loan to Sourdough Point Owners Association on Lake Pend Oreille, for the construction of a new surface water treatment plant. The Association's current water system depends on wells that have declined in production to the point that there is not enough water to meet summer demands. The Board scheduled its next regular meeting for March 8 and 9, 2007 in Boise.

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